The Ohio Physiological Society held its 27th annual meeting at Wright State University’s Boonshoft School of Medicine on October 26-27, 2012. With 127 registrants from 14 of Ohio’s universities, there was ample opportunity for energetic exchange of ideas between attendees. OPS 2012 opened Friday evening with a keynote address given by Dr. James W. Hicks from the University of California, Irvine who spoke on “Tales from the Heart: Form and Function of the Vertebrate Cardiovascular System”. Dr. Hicks’ talk was enthusiastically received and generated a lively discussion that was continued through the banquet following the keynote address. We appreciate the financial support from the American Physiological Society to bring in a keynote speaker.

Saturday’s portion of the OPS 2012 meeting began with research presentations from four new investigators in Ohio: Dr. Nadja Grobe, Wright State University; Dr. Peter MacFarlane, Case Western Reserve University; Dr. Yana Zavros, University of Cincinnati; and Dr. Peter Piermarini, The Ohio State University’s Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. Following a break, we reconvened for a trainee data blitz where students and postdoctoral fellows had the opportunity to briefly introduce their research and highlight a figure from their posters. Trainees volunteering to participate in the data blitz included Joseph Santin, Wright State University; Ahmed Obeidat, Wright State University; Venkateshwar Mutyam, University of Dayton; Amy Engevik, University of Cincinnati; Melinda Engevik, University of Cincinnati; Rituparna Ganguly, Northeast Ohio Medical University; Hari Somineni, Wright State University; Adam Deardorff, Wright State University; Eric Niespodzany, University of Cincinnati; Dr. Santosh Kumar Maurya, The Ohio State University; Jeannine Crum, Wright State University; Robert Palmer, Wright State University; and Andy Koesters, Wright State University.
Two consecutive poster sessions following lunch gave opportunity for the presentation of research posters by 6 faculty/research staff, 7 postdoctoral fellows, 43 graduate students, and 14 undergraduate students. Thanks to the generosity of the American Physiological Society, Ohio Physiological Society members, especially Dr. Norma Adragna, Dr. Francisco Javier Alvarez-Leefmans, and Dr. Peter K. Lauf, we were able to award four $500 travel awards to support trainees’ attendance at Experimental Biology 2013 in Boston. Dr. Christopher Wyatt and Dr. J. Ashot Kozak organized poster competitions, and, with the assistance of other faculty judges, awarded these travel awards to postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Santosh Kumar Maurya, The Ohio State University; and graduate students, Kim Sun Wook, University of Cincinnati; Joseph Santin, Wright State University; and Amy Engevik, University of Cincinnati. Congratulations to these trainees and best wishes on your EB presentations! Adam Deardorff, Wright State University, was given an honorable mention for his excellent presentation. In addition, four undergraduates were highlighted for their outstanding poster presentations: Jonathon Price, Wittenberg University; Savannah Doliboa, Wright State University; Orly Leiva, Wright State University; and Spencer Barnhill, Miami University. Congratulations to all of these poster competition winners and to all of our presenters for their high quality research posters.

Award winners from left to right, above: Santosh Kumar Maurya, OSU; Kim Sun Wook, UC; Amy Engevik, UC; Adam Deardorff, WSU; Joseph Santin, WSU; Savannah Doliboa, WSU; Spencer Barnhill, Miami U. Not pictured: Jonathon Price, Wittenberg U.; Orly Leiva, WSU.
OPS 2012 meeting finished with our business meeting in which our primary objective was for the 2012 OPS president, Dr. Lynn Hartzler, Wright State University, to welcome the 2013 OPS president, Dr. J. Gary Meszaros, NEOMED, to announce the next OPS meeting. Dr. Meszaros warmly welcomed all Ohio physiologists to join him at NEOMED in Rootstown, OH for our next OPS meeting in 2013. The OPS members present elected Dr. Thad Wilson from Ohio University as our Ohio Physiological Society’s President Elect.

Lynn also gratefully acknowledged the local organizing efforts of Dr. Dan Halm (OPS Treasurer), Susan Halm, Barbara Barr, Dr. J. Ashot Kozak, and Dr. Christopher Wyatt for their assistance with making the 2012 OPS meeting an exciting event, as well as the generous financial support provided by the American Physiological Society, Wright State University’s departments of Neuroscience, Cell Biology and Physiology (Dr. Timothy Cope, chair), Biological Sciences (Dr. David Goldstein, chair), Pharmacology and Toxicology (Dr. Mariana Morris, chair), and Wright State University’s College of Science and Mathematics (Dr. Yi Li, dean; Dr. Kathrin Engisch, assoc. dean; and Joyce Howes, asst. dean). The success of our 2012 OPS meeting was due to the excellent participation of our attendees and the efforts and support of the individuals organizing and supporting the meeting. We look forward to OPS 2013 at Northeast Ohio Medical University next year!